AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6 or claim 7, whercin said comparison means includes computation means for computing degree of similarity between the scene-change frame and the image that has been designated by said designation means, and

whercin said scene extraction means extracts the scene corresponding to said image based upon results of computation performed by said computation means.

3. and 4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6 or claim 7, wherein said designating means designates a pattern image that corresponds to any of a leading, intermediate or final frame of a scene that is the object of a search.

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for processing a moving picture having scene-change information, comprising:

designating means for designating an image that corresponds to a start scene that is the object of a search and the number of scenes from the start scene included in a moving picture;

comparison means for comparing a scene-change frame obtained by referring to the scene-change information with the image designated by said designation means;

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scene extraction means for extracting moving pictures, each of which has scenes of the number of scenes and includes a scene corresponding to the image designated by said designation means, based upon a result of the comparison performed by said comparison means; and

output means for combining each of the moving pictures extracted by said scene extraction means into a single moving picture.

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for processing a moving picture having scene-change information, comprising:

designating means for designating an image that corresponds to a start scene that is the object of a search and time length of ~~scenes~~ a scene from the start scene included in a moving picture;

comparison means for comparing a scene-change frame obtained by referring to the scene-change information, with the image designated by said designation means;

scene extraction means for extracting moving pictures, each of which has scenes of the time length of scenes and includes a scene corresponding to the image designated by designation means based upon a result of the comparison performed by said comparison means; and

output means for combining each of the moving pictures extracted by said scene extraction means into a single moving picture.

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8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said designating means is capable of designating the number of scenes to be extracted with regard to frames prior to and with regard to frames on and after a frame corresponding to the pattern image.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said designating means is capable of designating the time of a scene to be extracted with regard to frames prior to and with regard to frames on and after a frame corresponding to the pattern image.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15 or claim 16, wherein said comparison step includes a computation step, of computing degree of similarity between the scene-change frame and the image that has been designated in said designation step, and

wherein said scene extraction step includes extracting the scene corresponding to the image based upon results of computation performed in said computation step.

12. and 13 (Canceled).

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14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15 or claim 16, wherein said designating step includes designating a pattern image that corresponds to any of a leading, intermediate or final frame of a scene that is the object of a search.

15. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for processing a moving picture having scene-change information, comprising:

a designating step, of designating an image that corresponds to a start scene that is the object of a search and the number of scenes from the start scene included in a moving picture;

a comparison step, of comparing a scene-change frame, obtained by referring to the scene change information with the image designated in said designation step;

a scene extraction step, of extracting moving pictures, each of which has scenes of the number of scenes designated in said designation step, based upon a result of the comparison performed in said comparison step; and

an output step, of combining each of the moving pictures extracted in said scene extraction step into a single moving picture.

16. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for processing a moving picture having scene-change information, comprising:

a designating step, of designating an image that corresponds to a start scene that is the object of a search and time length of ~~scenes~~ a scene from the start scene included in a moving picture;

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a comparison step, of comparing a scene-change frame, obtained by referring to the scene change information that has been stored in said storage step, with the image designated in said designation step;

a scene extraction step, of extracting moving pictures, each of which has scenes of the number of scenes and includes a scene corresponding to the image designated in said designation step, based upon a result of the comparison performed in said comparison step; and

an output step, of combining each of the moving pictures extracted in said scene extraction step into a single moving picture.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said designating step includes designating the number of scenes to be extracted with regard to frames prior to and with regard to frames on and after a frame corresponding to the pattern image.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said designating step includes designating the time of a scene to be extracted with regard to frames prior to and with regard to frames on and after a frame corresponding to the pattern image.

19. (Canceled).

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20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory storing program code of image processing for processing a moving picture having screen-change information, the memory including:

program codes of a designating step, of designating an image that corresponds to a start scene that is the object of a search and the number of scenes from the start scene included in a moving picture;

program codes of a comparison step, of comparing a scene-change frame, which is obtained by referring to the scene change information with the image designated in said designation step;

program codes of a scene extraction step, of extracting moving pictures, each of which has scenes of the number of scenes designated in said designation step, based upon a result of the comparison performed in said comparison step; and

program codes of an output step, of combining each of the moving pictures extracted in said scene extraction step into a single moving picture.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory storing program code of image processing for processing a moving picture having screen-change information, the memory including:

program code of a designating step, of designating an image that corresponds to a start scene that is the object of a search and time length of a scene from the start scene included in a moving picture;

program code of a comparison step, of comparing a scene-change frame obtained by referring to the scene change information that has been stored in said storage

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step, with the image designated in said designation step;

program code of a scene extraction step, of extracting moving pictures, each of which has scenes of the number of scenes and includes a scene corresponding to the image designated in said designation step, based upon a result of the comparison performed in said comparison step; and

program code of an output step, of combining each of the moving pictures extracted in said scene extraction step into a single moving picture.

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